

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 199003  
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

66011

DRAFTED BY NEA:RNEUMANN

APPROVED BY NEA:NAVELIOTES

S/S-O:LRFLEISCHER

-----119911 201604Z /50

O 201544Z AUG 77 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 199003

NODIS

OLLOWING REPET BEIRUT 4072 ACTION STATE AUG 19.

QUOTE S E C R E T BEIRUT 4072

NODIS

FROM THE AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINR, IS, LE

SUBJECT: SOUTH LEBANON

REF: (A) TEL AVIV 6078, (B) BEIRUT 4034

1. I WOULD LIKE TO OFFER FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL COMMENTS ON  
REF A.

2. FIRST, ALTHOUGH MORALE OF CHRISTIAN FIGHTERS IN SOUTH  
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 199003

LEBANON MAY BE WEAKENING AS BEGIN ASSERTS, (PARA 3, REF A),  
THEIR ACTIONS ON THE GROUND DO NOT SUPPORT THIS CONTENTION.  
CHRISTIANS AND ISRAELIS SEEMS TO HAVE TAKEN THE INITIATIVE AT  
LEAST AS OFTEN AS PALESTINIANS AND LEBANESE LEFTISTS IN  
STARTING EXCHANGES OF ARTILLERY FIRE DURING PAST TEN DAYS.  
ONE EYEWITNESS OBSERVER TOLD OUR DATT THAT ON AUGUST 17 AT  
LEAST FIVE TIMES AS MANY SHELLS FELL ON THE PALESTINIAN-HELD

TOWN OF NABATIYAH AS WERE FIRED FROM PALESTINIAN SIDE. IN ADDITION, CHRISTIAN PLANNING, IN COOPERATION WITH ISRAELIS, FOR ATTACK ON NAQURA INDICATES THEY HAVE NOT LOST ALL THEIR AGGRESSIVENESS. ISRAELI TALK OF CHRISTIAN NEED FOR A SUPPLY LINE AND BASHIR GEMAYEL'S RECENT COMMENTS ABOUT TAKING NAQURA MADE ME FEAR JUST SUCH AN ATTACK MIGHT BE COMING (PARA 4, BEIRUT 4018), BUT PROMPT ACTION BY DEPT AND WHITE HOUSE APPARENTLY FORESTALLED IT

3. SECOND, AT A LUNCHEON ON AUG 18, BOTH PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR KHALIL HADDAD AND GENERAL KHOURY TOLD DCM THEY THOUGHT ISRAELIS WERE DELIBERATELY KEEPING THE POT BOILING IN THE SOUTH. LEBANESE ASSERTIONS IN THIS REGARD MUST OF COURSE BE TREATED WITH RESERVE, BUT IT IS AT LEAST CONCEIVABLE ISRAELIS MAY NOT THINK IT IN THEIR INTEREST TO HAVE A PALESTINIAN-SYRIAN-GOL RECONCILIATION IN SOUTH LEBANON. SO FAR, ISRAEL HAS BENEFITED IN VARIOUS WAYS FROM LEBANESE CIVIL WAR, AND IT MAY HAVE VESTED INTEREST NOW IN PREVENTING SETTLEMENT WHICH WOULD LEAVE PALESTINIANS IN PLACE IN SOUTH LEBANON.

4. THIRD, EVERYONE TALKS OF THE SHTAURA AGREEMENT THESE DAYS BUT NO ONE KNOWS EXACTLY WHAT IT MEANS. BASICALLY, PHASE 3 OF THIS AGREEMENT WAS INTENDED TO  
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 199003

BE AN IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR THE CAIRO ACCORD OF 1969 IN SOUTHERN LEBANON. THIS IS NO GREAT HELP, HOWEVER, SINCE THE CAIRO ACCORD ITSELF IS FULL OF AMBIGUITIES AND IT IS BY NO MEANS CERTAIN THAT THE PARTIES ARE AGREED ON EXACTLY HOW MANY PALESTINIAN FORCES ARE ALLOWED TO BE WHERE. UNDER THE BEST OF CIRCUMSTANCES, IT WILL TAKE TIME, PATIENCE AND GOOD WILL BY LEBANESE, PALESTINIANS AND SYRIANS BEFORE AN ACTUAL MODUS VIVENDI ON THE GROUND IS WORKED OUT. THE NEXT FOUR WEEKS ARE LIKELY TO BE A PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE AND DANGEROUS TIME. ISRAELI ATTITUDE DURING THIS TIME IS GOING TO BE CRUCIAL: IF THEY SHOW RESTRAINT, MODUS VIVENDI MAY BE POSSIBLE, BUT IF THEY GIVE IN TO BASHIR GEMAYEL'S URGINGS ABOUT NAQURA, THE SITUATION CAN ONLY GET WORSE.

5. SUGGEST DEPT PASS DAMASCUS AND TEL AVIV. PARKER UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CHRISTIANS, PALESTINIANS, CAT-B, MEETING REPORTS, POLITICAL SITUATION, MILITARY PLANS, BORDER CONTROLS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 20-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977STATE199003  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** RNEUMANN  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** N770005-0177  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:**  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 2  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t19770840/aaaabhlz.tel  
**Line Count:** 111  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 11b38457-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ORIGIN NODS  
**Original Classification:** SECRET  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** NODIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** SECRET  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** NODIS  
**Reference:** 77 TEL AVIV 6078, 77 BEIRUT 4034  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 22-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1537906  
**Secure:** LOCK1  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SOUTH LEBANON  
**TAGS:** PINR, PBOR, IS, LE, PLO, (BEGIN, MENACHEM)  
**To:** DAMASCUS TEL AVIV  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/11b38457-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009